

Town of Southington  
Board of Finance  
Monday, June 13, 2016

Special Meeting Minutes

The Board of Finance of the Town of Southington held a special meeting on June 13, 2016 at the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 75 Main Street, Southington, CT. John Leary, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

John Leary, Edward S. Pocock, Jr., Kevin Beaudoin, James Coleman, Sr.

Staff: Emilia Portelinha, Finance Director  
Garry Brumback, Town Manager

Absent: Joseph Labieniec and John Moise

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was recited by everyone in attendance.

**JOHN LEARY, CHAIR, Presiding:**

Motion to move Managers Memos to the top of the agenda made by Mr. Pocock, seconded by Mr. Coleman. Mr. Pocock wished to table the two items to the meeting of June 21<sup>st</sup> in order that we may have more information from the state. Motion passed unanimously on a verbal vote.

**III. Old Business**

**1. Recommendation of Debt Ceiling for the Town of Southington Debt Management Policy**

Motion by Mr. Pocock to raise the debt ceiling to state "total debt service shall be maintained below 9.5% of general fund expenditures". This item was tabled at the last meeting. Mr. Beaudoin seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Chairman Leary said there have been elaborate discussions regarding this topic. He believes this sewer project is very important to the town and that bonding appropriately is the way to go. It will be brought to referendum in November.

Mr. Coleman stated that we need to move forward on the Water Pollution Control Facility. We are increasing the debt ceiling but we have work to do as a board to address the appropriateness

of that ceiling to make it lower or set it higher. Come up with an enduring policy to accommodate the town in the best and most efficient manner. Motion passed 4-0 on a roll call vote.

**2. Bond Ordinance of \$57,100,000 for the Water Pollution Control Facility** (tabled at 5/11/16 meeting)

This item was tabled at the last meeting. Chairman Leary read the wording of the bond ordinance. Mr. Brumback said at this particular point one of the reasons timing is so critical is we have to be under contract by 2018 and completed by 2021 or we risk losing up to \$17 million in state grants and a low interest Clean Water Fund loan which is currently 2%. It will still put a significant cost to be borne by the taxpayer, just short of \$40 million. Mr. Brumback stated that we intend to go out and educate the public regarding this project so they know what it is. This is probably the most critical project done in the last 25 or 30 years.

Mr. Pocock made a motion to approve the bond ordinance for the Water Pollution Control Facility in the amount of \$57.1 million. Seconded by Mr. Coleman. Discussion followed. Mr. Pocock said have to realize this is history we are catching up with. That facility has done a remarkable job with what they had to work with. When it is done it will be state of the art, and we definitely need it for DEEP, EPA and the Clean Water Act. Mr. Beaudoin said it is definitely needed. We have been doing bandaids over the years. If it doesn't pass, the whole amount will be borne by the town. He also stated that Mr. Moise is not here but was in favor.

Mr. Brumback said the fines could be as much as \$32,000 a day. Mr. Leary said it is in the best interest of the town. It is very clear it has to be done. There are many reasons why it is necessary. The costs for the facility will be borne by the town as a whole. Rate payers of the sewers pay for usage but this is borne by the town as a whole.

Motion carried 4-0 on a roll call vote.

**V. Meeting Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn as 6:12 p.m. by Mr. Pocock, seconded by Mr. Coleman.